

\$2

MAY 2021 | VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 5

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PLEASE BUY ONLY FROM BADGED VENDORS.

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GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.



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A new generation of leadership at Groundcover News

It is understandable if dedicated readers of the past five years are skeptical, but I really am retiring from publishing Groundcover News this time. I will continue as a member of the Board of Directors this year but I have moved up north and turned over the reins to our very capable layout editor, Lindsay Calka.

Over the past few years, Lindsay has collaborated with Groundcover as a member of the U-M student group Michigan Movement, volunteered in our office, interned for a summer, helped us adjust to operating in a Covid reality and took over as layout editor. She has consistently shown



SUSAN BECKETT
Publisher emeritus

herself to be dedicated, organized, reliable, creative and competent. She has also demonstrated substantial ability as a leader and organizer.

This is a significant generational

transition and it might be uncomfortable at times for me and some of you. But as they say, you are either growing or dying and I expect we will see considerable growth in the coming years.

With vaccination rates rising and the economy opening back up, Groundcover sales are on the rise, new vendors are coming aboard and Covid-paused volunteers are returning. These are auspicious circumstances for a transition and culture shift. Please join me in welcoming Lindsay and contributing to a renaissance at Groundcover.



Susan Beckett has been the Director and Publisher of Groundcover News since its founding in 2001. She is pictured above with Hailu Shitaye.

A new era for Groundcover News

Greetings, Groundcover readers! My name is Lindsay Calka and this month I am starting as Publisher and Managing Director at Groundcover News — taking over as the “new Susan,” if you will. I want to introduce myself to those who don’t know me yet, and welcome YOU to get involved with the budding changes here at Groundcover.

I moved to Ann Arbor from Tampa, Florida in 2017 to attend undergrad at the University of Michigan. After being a loyal customer to the paper for two years, I decided to get in on the action. I joined the Groundcover community in the fall of 2019 as an office volunteer, helping out and hanging out with Glenn and vendors downstairs on Friday afternoons. While getting to know Groundcover as a newspaper, nonprofit and family, I was inspired by the many ways I could contribute to the paper’s production and function. In January



LINDSAY CALKA
Publisher

of 2020, I began training to be the layout editor.

My first month alone in the role as layout editor was March 2020 — the first month of the pandemic, and the first month we halted sales of the physical paper. Making online editions for our subscribers and helping out with Groundcover’s vendor outreach program, my understanding of the organization expanded once again.

I saw Groundcover as an impactful, resilient agency in the community that advanced and strengthened despite the struggles of the pandemic.

In the spring of last year I began interning in operations for Groundcover while continuing with my role as layout editor. During that summer, along with Glenn, Michael, Jessi, members of the Groundcover board, and of course, Susan, we were able to return to paper sales safely.

It was that summer in which I completely fell in love with Groundcover and began to understand my role as an active member of the Ann Arbor community. Once my summer internship came to a close and I began my senior year of school, I knew I had no interest in being anywhere but 423 S. 4th Ave.

Slowly but surely this year we have achieved an incredible rebound from COVID-19; last month we had our highest number of paper sales since

returning to print last July! The joy and resilience that our vendors have embodied over the past year inspires me, and all of us at the office, to help make Groundcover the best it can be until we are back in full swing. In the meantime, we are going to keep each other safe, be flexible and enjoy every moment in between.

Although I think it is hard for all of us to picture Groundcover without Susan Beckett, I am thrilled to play an active role in this new era of Groundcover, and even more so I am proud to be a part of this team of change-makers, creatives and passionate activists for social justice. I welcome you to join me, and the rest of the Groundcover vendors, staff, volunteers and contributors in this exciting time. Please reach out to me at lindsay@groundcovernews.com if you would like to be involved!

GROUNDCOVER

Mission

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

Susan Beckett — publisher

Michael Corrigan — assistant director

Catherine Nouhan — editor

Lindsay Calka — layout editor

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Chris Ellis
Lizzy Lawrence
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MEET YOUR VENDOR



Pony Bush, vendor No. 305

Where do you usually sell Groundcover News?

Village Kitchen.

What is your favorite thing to do in Ann Arbor?

Sell Groundcover News.

In one sentence, who are you?

I’m a survivor.

What is something about you that someone on the street wouldn’t know?

I’ve got the motivation to do whatever I want to do. I’m a go-getter.

If you could do anything for a day, what would it be?

Take over the world. (For good not bad!)

What words do you live by?

Be true to your word. Be true to what you stand for.

What is the best way to start the day?

A good breakfast! I like french toast, pancakes, bacon and eggs, omelets, and cereal.

What is your superpower?

No matter what I wear, my clothes match. Hat to shoes.

What was your first job?

Selling Groundcover.

What is the most impressive thing you know how to do?

Dress to impress.

Boober Tours and Treehouse 603 celebrate Hash Bash

Treehouse 603, a Boober advertising customer, had a soft open back in December 2020. They decided to have a grand opening at their store on April 3, 2021 to celebrate the 50th Hash Bash. It was an amazing event and was extremely well executed. They had a tent, spinning wheel for discounts, free pizza from NYPD, free cookies, a live DJ, and free swag including pins and shirts. Hash Bash was slow to start with only about 300 in attendance for the protest. There were many people there throughout the day, the diag was crowded with people. I hope that Treehouse 603 will continue to grow both in sales and customer support. On their grand opening,



KEVIN SPANGLER
Groundcover vendor No. 307

they had 479 sales!

In Boober news, we have now installed three new motors on our bikes bringing our fleet total to eight electric-assist pedicabs. We are still continuing to work on our app, available for I-phones, to make sure it runs smoothly on Androids. We have paid back all

outstanding rent and have now saved \$1,300 with help of a grant and government stimulus. Things are looking up. The only challenge Boober is facing is finding new drivers. All the drivers work on donations. For the right person, it can pay well.



Treehouse 603 grand opening on April 3.

Rough around the edges but you smooth us up



JOE WOODS
Groundcover vendor No. 103

I want to thank the community, businesses and everyone that supports Groundcover News. You are truly appreciated and valued. I know, as vendors, we can come across a little rough sometimes, and on behalf of all the vendors, and especially myself, I want to apologize for that.

Because of you, vendors are able to better their financial situation, get a sense of being a part

of something positive, and even achieve bigger goals. Without you, this wouldn’t be possible. So thank you very much.

I personally want to give a special thanks to the customers that come by the Cherry Republic at Liberty and Main Street, and a GIGANTIC thanks to the businesses that allow me and other vendors to sell there. Thank you, City of Ann Arbor.

What April and May mean to me

April and May are some really important and emotional months for me. They are months that I really celebrate family and friends the most. I celebrate Jesus on Easter. Celebrating Easter in April with family helps me get through some of the hard emotions of the time.

I remember in the past having my hardest times in April and May. I remember not feeling the best mentally and emotionally during these two months, both when I was a kid and as an adult. After having that hard of a time in the past, I don’t take anything



DENISE SHEARER
Groundcover vendor No. 485

or anyone for granted. I am grateful for all the good that I have. April and May make me see things with more compassion and kindness, especially people. Knowing summer is close

helps me. I know there will be lots of sunshine and I can get outside to take walks. When I see the butterflies, it makes me feel happy and excited for the warmer weather to come. I also like looking at the robins and the brown doves. I see so many violets coming up in the grass. It makes me happy to see those flowers blooming.

In spring and summer, before the pandemic, my family and I would sometimes gather for barbecues and picnics at a family member’s house. I miss getting together with family and friends for those hangouts.

Climate change, environmental concerns and net-zero carbon emissions: Think globally, act locally

"Our purpose is to bring new ideas, new analyses, and new approaches to persistent problems — both national and international — to the attention of all those who care about, and help determine the quality and direction of our life... We hope that 'The Limit to Growth' will command critical attention and spark debate in all societies."

— William Watts, President, Potomac Associates (1972)



WILL SHAKESPEARE
Groundcover vendor No. 258

America's first Earth Day celebration began on April 22, 1970. Today, in 2021, more than one billion people in over 190 countries celebrate Earth Day. Environmental historians have given credit to former Wisconsin Democratic Senator Gaylord Nelson for proposing the event in order to raise awareness about climate risks and environmental degradation. Nelson issued the proclamation for an Earth Day celebration in September 1969 while he was urging college students across America to begin a "National Teach-In." The Senator also wanted Earth Day to be "A National Day of Conversation."

Groundcover's April 2020 Earth Day article was subtitled, "As Earth Day turns 50, local leaders step up on climate action." It addressed two important policy questions: What is the University of Michigan doing about climate change? What is the City of Ann Arbor plus the Washtenaw County government doing about addressing climate change? An update follows.

The torch has passed from the 1960s/1970s generation of environmental activists to the Millennial Generation and Generation Z. These young people organized the Washtenaw County Climate Strike in 2019. College students, along with their high school and middle school allies, demonstrated on and around the University of Michigan campus.

Concerned parents were calling high school and middle school administrators asking where the teachers and their children were. Thousands of the students and many of their teachers were participating in the rallies. They protested and demanded urgent actions to combat climate change. The City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County governments have subsequently declared a climate emergency. They have taken steps in 2019, 2020 and 2021 to achieve carbon neutrality and net-zero emissions.

Recently, a new student group formed at the University of Michigan. They call themselves the Climate Action Movement, or CAM. They raised concerns about investments in fossil fuel by the

University of Michigan and the City of Ann Arbor. They are both fearless and aggressive, displaying hundreds of posters across the town and the campus which say, "Invest in Our Futures, Not Planetary Destruction."

Before the U-M Presidential Commission on Carbon Neutrality (PCCN) handed over their published final report to President Mark Schlissel and the Board of Regents, CAM made three key demands:

1. DIVEST from all companies whose business is to enact or fund the exploration, extraction, refinement or transportation of fossil fuels;
2. REINVEST capital in initiatives that advance a just energy transition and build community resilience; and
3. REALIGN the endowment with U-M's mission to serve the public good.

Update on what the University of Michigan is doing to combat climate change

On March 18, 2021, the U-M PCCN released its 104-page final report. The document outlines 50 recommendations for the University of Michigan's three campuses to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. The commissioners identified multiple steps to reducing the University's carbon footprint. There were three essential scopes for achieving carbon neutrality:

Scope 1) The University's direct emissions, including those from the University power plant, the transportation and bus fleet on the campuses, and emission from boilers;

Scope 2) Emissions that derive from University off-campus electricity and 'purchased power;'

Scope 3) Emissions indirectly attributed to the University that include commuting to campus and food procurement on campus."

In order to forward the PCCN's suggestions, the U-M's Graham Sustainability Institute's Carbon Neutrality Acceleration Program announced in February 2021 that a \$5 million gift from anonymous donors will have "the

dramatic potential to help reduce net carbon emission." Dr. Jennifer Haverkamp, Director of the Graham Sustainability Institute, co-chairs PCCN with Dr. Jonathan Overpeck, Dean of the School of Environment and Sustainability.

Some of the student activists involved with CAM and the previous Washtenaw County Climate Strike decided not to fully embrace the new PCCN recommendations—especially the recommendations that rely on carbon offsets.

Update on what Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County governments are doing for climate change

The City of Ann Arbor declared a climate emergency in 2019. The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners did the same, followed by the city of Ypsilanti. U-M Ph.D. graduate Dr. Missy Stults is the City of Ann Arbor Manager for Sustainability and Innovation. She is the primary representative of the city on the formulation, implementation and evaluation of carbon neutrality and net-zero carbon emission policies. In March 2020, the city launched the net-zero carbon neutrality programs. The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners has worked closely with the Ann Arbor City Council and the City staff on issues of climate change, net-zero carbon emissions and goal setting.

Both local governments are committed to increasing their budgets and community education on the risks of



Missy Stults and her Ann Arbor action team will help residents plant 10,000 trees to offset sources of air pollution within its jurisdiction.

climate change and the benefits of achieving net-zero carbon emission goals by 2030. Between April 30 and May 2, Missy Stults and her Ann Arbor climate action team will help Ann Arbor residents plant 10,000 trees to offset sources of air pollution within its jurisdiction.

Leadership in Ann Arbor's climate change policies will be maximized in the coming years. Ann Arbor's Mayor, Christopher Taylor, was invited in February 2021 to become a special adviser to the Global Executive Committee on Climate Action. Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced in September 2020 that the state of Michigan would set the goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

The issues of climate change are not

see CLIMATE page 12 ➔



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Does humankind have a working hypothesis?

KEN PARKS Groundcover vendor No. 490

We have the nerve to call ourselves homo sapiens. Usually translated as wise man, we are in the family of hominids, the genus homo and species homo sapiens. We are sentient beings, one of many kinds of consciousness. We have yet to show that we deserve this name.

We are in a diverse group of species who recognize ourselves in a mirror. It's good to look in a mirror and smile at who you see. It is good to notice whatever thought arises and the emotional

companion that follows it. Now is a good time for a natural breath. If you observe a thought as it first arises and do not become distracted by emotional reactions, you will have a good perception and reality can be a workable sounding board.

I propose that every thought is a hypothesis that we rarely interrogate to clarity. I also propose that reflection is necessary to experience a thought skillfully enough to decide if it is worthy of pursuit now, later or not at all.

My favorite teachers of mindful awareness began with Thich Nhat Hanh in 1967 and settled in with

the Kagyu Tibetan Buddhist tradition in 1980. My seniority has not moved me beyond the beginner's stage. The social revolution is my home, and the marriage of spirituality with politics is deeply challenging. Mindful awareness is my understanding of those brief moments when we experience the mind from which thoughts arise.

You may return to following the breath, chanting mantra, resting in the natural state, or following whatever instruction you believe to be helpful. The intention to benefit yourself in life and death is important for both spiritual and social maturity.



WHAT WASHTENAW COUNTY RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW

About American Rescue Plan Benefits



How will the American Rescue Plan help you and your family?

The American Rescue Plan funds dozens of programs that will help people and families during the COVID-19 pandemic including:

- Cash benefits*
- Unemployment benefits
- Food assistance
- Health care coverage
- Child and dependent care tax credits*
- Child tax credits*
- Housing and utility assistance
- TANF cash assistance
- Earned income tax credits*

The major benefits for people and families are listed below, along with information about how to access each of them. Benefits listed above with an asterisk (*) are accessed through tax returns.

The American Rescue Plan will provide \$1,400 per person—including child and adult dependents—to more than 85 percent of U.S. households.*

That means: If you're a single parent with two kids, you're entitled to \$4,200 in cash.

What you need to do: Most people don't need to do anything to receive the cash. But if you didn't file a tax return or non-filer submission in 2019 or 2020, you need to file a return before the May 17 deadline. If you require assistance, call 211.

More details: If you filed a 2020 tax return, the IRS will use it to calculate your cash benefit. If you haven't filed a 2020 tax return, the IRS will use your 2019 return (or non-filer submission) to calculate your cash benefit. If the IRS has your bank account information, the payment will be sent directly to your bank (this is the fastest way to receive your payment). [Learn more](#)

Derek Chauvin Guilty in Death of George Floyd

On April 21, after a month-long trial, former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was convicted for the murder of George Floyd on all charges. Although this inspires a feeling of relief in the city of Minneapolis and in cities across the United States, the targeted killing of Black lives persists.

On April 11, Daunte Wright, a 20-year-old African American man, was fatally shot by a police officer not even ten miles from the murder of George Floyd.

Justice cannot wait to be served in the courtroom in response to fatal injustices. We need a reimagining of policing and public safety. More must be done!

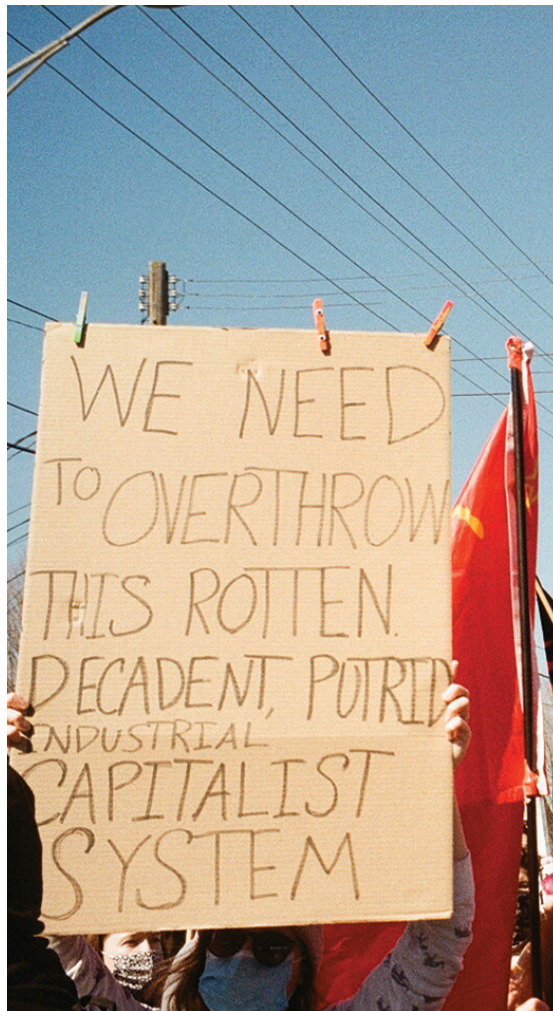
Groundcover Principles as a Statement of Solidarity with Humanity

From its inception, **Groundcover News** has approached all its activities with belief in the following principles, as written on our website:

- All people have the right to dignity.
- Diversity has intrinsic value.
- Poverty is political — systemic change is necessary.
- Building community is essential to social change.
- Political effectiveness requires staying power.
- Solutions to poverty must involve people who are directly affected.
- Risks are necessary to create positive change.
- Meeting people where they are honors their skills and potential.
- We are committed to quality, professionalism, and accountability in everything we do.

We feel our attachment to these principles even more strongly today. If they resonate with you too, and you are looking for a way to make a difference during these life-changing times, please join us as a volunteer, supporter, friend or Board Member. To let us know, email: contact@groundcovernews.com.





Risdale Park, Lansing, Mich. on March 20, 2021. Left: Signs and flags with anti-capitalist messages were held up by the marching crowd. Middle: Members from Detroit Will Breathe led chants for the protestors. Right: Washtenaw Camp Outreach member, Adam, speaks before the march. He called for an end to the injustices exclaiming, "We too have a right to live, a right to housing."

Washtenaw county local activists organize Michigan People's March for peace and justice

March 20, 2021 was a bright, warm and sunny Saturday. Local activists from Washtenaw General Defense Committee (WGDC) and the Washtenaw Camp Outreach (WCO) met briefly at the outdoor garden of the non-profit Mercy House community organization of Ann Arbor. Several cars were made available for the breakfast guests and other homeless activists who wished to travel to Lansing for The People's March.

The march and rally were scheduled to take place on March 20 at Risdale Park. Organizers of the Lansing event mobilized their networks all across Michigan; all 17 groups — including local groups WGDC, WCO, the Ann Arbor Tenants Union, Huron Valley Democratic Socialists of America, and the Poor Peoples Campaign — were expected to assemble at Risdale Park which is near a Lansing high school.

We left Ann Arbor around 11:30 a.m. Ben, a local activist and volunteer coordinator, drove. Other vehicles and their passengers from Ypsilanti and Detroit left earlier than us and so they were already blended in the crowd by the time we arrived. There were approximately 300 people in attendance. Several tables were set up near the picnic tables with readings,



WILL SHAKESPEARE
Groundcover vendor No. 258

posters, water bottles for the event guests and speakers.

There were a dozen speakers who talked about important issues of concern. One of the Lansing Solidarity and Defense organizers gave an emotional speech about Black Lives Matter, health care, evictions, and affordable housing. Another speaker, representing Cosecha, talked about workers' rights, police brutality, COVID-19, income inequality, high unemployment and the mistreatment of kids at the southern border. At approximately 2:30 p.m., the people's march began and participants protested in the streets and neighborhoods for two hours.

Various activists had set up tables with information about their causes.

Jason B. was one of the representatives for the Workers' Rights Movement. His organization, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), is based in Ypsilanti.

"The IWW is a 115-year-old union. We help people form unions and use solidarity to confront capitalism on the frontlines," Jason said.

His colleague, Elise B. said, "Ypsilanti IWW works with workers to take power back from their bosses on their own terms. Workers are the backbone of every business and bosses rob the profits we make!"

At 4:00 p.m., we said goodbye to several participants, picked up some free vegetarian sandwiches and bottled water and headed back to Washtenaw County. We arrived safely, encouraged by a beautiful exercise of our first amendment rights, including the freedom of expression, the right to assemble and petition the government for a redress of grievances, freedom of the press and religious liberty.

President Abraham Lincoln said, "No one deserves freedom and liberty if the person is unwilling to extend them to others." He also said, "Democracy is a government planned by the people, for the people, and for the interest of the people."



You might have seen this flyer around downtown Ann Arbor weeks leading up to the March.

What we saw in Lansing on March 20 was participatory democracy in action. Besides the power of the ballot (voting), protest marches and rallies are key components of America's constitutional democracy. It is not a novel concept. Greater citizen participation may help us realize a more just and peaceful society!

A2 Cycle of Success

RIA DAUGHTERY
Groundcover contributor

The COVID-19 pandemic has been detrimental to our health. With many restaurants and hospitality services being hit hard, COVID-19 has left many people at home for the last 14 months. The pandemic left us living more on the couch eating than enjoying the splendid Michigan outdoors. Jay, at A2 Cycle of Success, wants to get us outside in the Ann Arbor area.

Jay is a 31-year-old bicycle technician living with disabilities. He is a proud father of a brilliant 18-month old boy. Jay struggles with autism and debilitating PTSD brought on by an assault in 2018.

The assault led Jay and his wife to become chronically homeless for almost two years. There was also a year when Jay was homeless on his own, living in a teardrop camper at Journey of Faith Christian Church. As his marriage was coming to an end, Jay struggled with what to do with his life.

Early into the COVID-19 pandemic, Jay took camping trips to gather his thoughts as he contemplated the meaning of his life. On one such adventure in June 2020, Jay traveled south for a month where he met his best friend, an abandoned puppy in Mississippi. He named the puppy Copper, and the Mississippi Mut became his emotional support animal.

A2 Cycle of Success sprang from a series of encounters.

"Kevin Spangler, the owner of Ann Arbor's Boober Tours, asked if I had ever given it [starting a company] a thought," said Jay. "While trying to overcome agoraphobia and exploring the city on my e-bike, I ran into a Boober Tours pedicab driver and started a conversation. Eventually, I met up with Kevin and we hit it off, so I started working alongside Kevin by repairing his pedicabs. In passing conversation, we began shooting the shit

about how I would like to have a bike shop.

After giving it some thought, I realized that I need to get my capital, emotional and cognitive resources in order. The kick in the ass for me was watching the Discovery Channel's Undercover Billionaires. In the episode, someone said, 'work with what you have.' I had a bike, a toolset, a skill and a space in which I could work my passion."

Jay's business is located in the lower level of Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Rd., just off of Washtenaw Avenue in Ann Arbor. Through volunteering with Rose Marcum-Raugh (Homeless Coordinator) at New Beginnings Homeless Ministry (also located in the lower level of the Church), it came to the church's attention that Jay had been dreaming about having his own bike shop.

"A2 Cycle of Success started because I found myself housed and in a better position to serve the community," said Jay. "Immediately after the assault, I developed severe PTSD symptoms that made driving a terrifying ordeal; I felt that my actions and the actions of those around me were not safe. It was when I received a traffic citation that I decided it felt safer to travel by bike. I turned the mountain bike I already had into an e-bike to feel safer and more in control. Now I'm in a position to help fill the need for obtaining and servicing other's bicycles. I have been enjoying the adventure because it is giving me a sense of purpose.

"I plan to help the community by providing a service in a comfortable environment; I am a no-pressure salesperson ... helping the community. During my travels, I have seen an extensive array of mechanically dysfunctional bikes that homeless people of Ann Arbor use. I want to provide lower-cost service to these individuals than the other local bike shops.

"There is a wide variety of people between those who can pay and those



A2 Cycle of Success takes donations of new and used bikes. Jay conducts needed repairs himself in the A2 Cycle of Success bike shop at Journey of Faith.



who cannot, and I have the discretion to fill that void or need for mildly disenfranchised people such as single mothers/fathers, low-income students, people with two or more jobs with no reliable transportation, or even those who don't qualify for food stamps (SNAP benefits) but should.

"When I refurbish a bike and have it appraised by a local online community forum, an interview with the applicant and an assessment is performed. A decision gets made on the final price. When a bike gets sold at market value, its profit lowers the cost of a bike or service for a low/no income person.

"With the help of my friends and the CARES Act stimulus checks, I was able to get my car in running order and purchase two bike repair stands and the first batch of specialty tools. The vehicle allows me to make deliveries and pick up donations in the Ann Arbor area, and the tools got me started. I have received two dozen bikes donated since December; I have managed to sell a few. The rest of the bikes are designated to be the reduced-cost refurbished bicycles. I will improve these bikes by selling more bikes and performing repairs on customers' bikes that come through the shop. In fact, I have just ordered a slew of chains and

cables to finish refurbishing the remainder of bikes, just in time for late spring.

"A2 Cycle of Success wants to encourage and stimulate people to get out and ride this season, but we need your help. We are looking for every kind of bike, from rusted to riches, cruisers to classic, tandems to trikes, children's and recumbent bikes. With the help of several donations to my GoFundMe account, we have been able to buy more tools and supplies to breathe new life into any donations we receive or can find," said Jay.

For more information or to support our cause please visit us at:

[A2CycleofSuccess.org](https://a2cycleofsuccess.org)

Facebook: @A2CycleofSuccess

Please call to schedule an appointment at (734) 704-7704



Expunge your criminal record

Thanks to new laws, many people with old criminal records now have the opportunity to have their criminal records "expunged."

Expungement means that your criminal record can be hidden from public view. It means that when you apply for a job, housing, financial aid or a professional license, **you no longer have to list the criminal offenses that have been expunged.** It also means that if employers,

landlords or educational or professional institutions search your criminal history, they will not be able to see the criminal offenses that have been expunged.

The Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office **strongly encourages eligible people to apply to expunge their old criminal records.** A new unit in the Prosecutor's Office has been set up to work with community partners and assist in expungement.

Starting on April 11, 2021, you can apply for expungement assistance at michiganlegalhelp.org/lsscm-expungement-intake. If you have questions about expungement, you can contact the Office's new unit (at the email below) or a Washtenaw County Expungement Committee partner:

Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office Conviction Integrity & Expungement Unit (CIEU)

CIEU@washtenaw.org

Michigan Works! Southeast
expungement@mwse.org

Michigan Advocacy Program
expungements@lsscm.org

If you think you might be eligible for expungement, you may wish to review the Expungement Explainer at wash-tenaw.org/3364/Expungements

Jennifer's weed

RONALD PAGERESKI
Groundcover contributor

Today a pretty dandelion was picked by me.

Just a weed people say, let it be.

Its yellow face, bright as the sun,

brought thoughts of when we were one.

I held your hand, not like we were wed,

but, close we were in things we did and said.

Why a weed would bring these thoughts about,

from your circle of friends, you put me out.

He's not of your class, were the words they said,

an invasive species, get him out of your head.

Though but a lowly flower, my heart I'd give to you,

but now you've cast me off like a worn out shoe.

Gone away from me, you're finally freed ...

but, once, you too held a weed.

Divineness Drowning

CHRISTOPHER ELLIS
Groundcover vendor No. 483

So much preciousness, and their blood

on these cities

these streets

Hard hand and stained concrete, barring

out the pureness of a seed

germinated on seething hot soil

that burns breath.

See, divineness can be covered up, or

stretched thin over a glass

littered field.

Smouldering there after the shadow

has passed

dressed in unlaundered, exploitive shapelessness.



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washtenaw.org/homeimprovement

Help your friends and family stay warm this winter by having
them give our home improvement program team a call.

Our office has multiple programs* that offer free home repairs
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**Eligibility is based on household income.*

Sudoku ★★★★★☆ 4puz.com

3		2	4					
9				7	6			
5			1	3	8			2
6	4							9
	9						2	
8							7	5
2			3	9	7			8
			6	8				3
					4	7		6

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Groundcover Vendor Code
during COVID-19

While Groundcover is a non-profit,
and paper vendors are self-employed
contractors, we still have expecta-
tions of how vendors should conduct
themselves while selling and repre-
senting the paper. COVID-19 spe-
cific requirements agreed to by
vendors following new training.

- I will wear a mask at all times while selling Groundcover News.
- I will use gloves, hand sanitizer or wash with soap to remove germs from my hands before selling and as needed between customers.
- I will stay 6 feet away from others.

The following is our **Vendor Code of Conduct**, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

- Groundcover will be distributed for a voluntary donation. I agree not to ask for more than the cover price or solicit donations by any other means.
- When selling Groundcover, I will always have the current monthly issue of Groundcover available for customer purchase.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including pan-
handling with only one paper or sell-

ing past monthly issues.

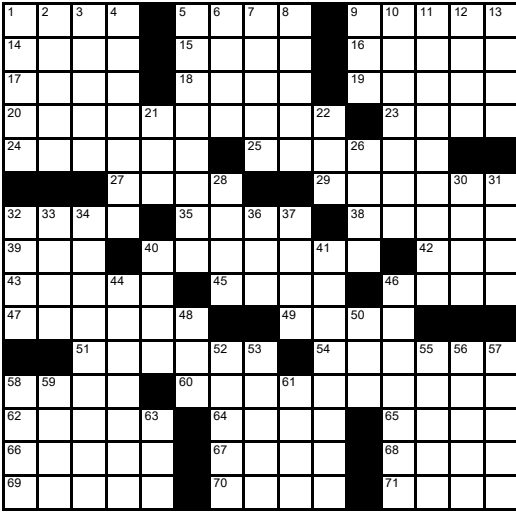
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers and refrain from wearing it or other Groundcover gear when engaged in other activities.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.
- I agree to treat all customers, staff, and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private prop-
erty when selling Groundcover.
- I understand to refrain from sell-
ing on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor in down-
town areas. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.
- I understand that Groundcover strives to be a paper that covers topics of homelessness and poverty while providing sources of income for the homeless. I will try to help in this effort and spread the word.

Twofer Tee

by Tracy Bennett and Victor Fleming

ACROSS

- 1 Tiny amount
- 5 World capital that's also a bean
- 9 All thumbs
- 14 "The Queen's Gambit" star ____ Taylor-Joy
- 15 Seasoned by the years
- 16 "Chicago" character
- 17 Emulates Cardi B
- 18 Unloaded, slangily
- 19 What) represents in an emoticon
- 20 One who kindly derails every online thread?
- 23 Trysting twosome, maybe
- 24 How some things must be 42-Across
- 25 "You ____ bother!"
- 27 Radiant ray
- 29 Get ready
- 32 Feeling the pain after Jazzercise, say
- 35 Cat breed locals call "stubbin" or "rumpy"
- 38 Carry away
- 39 Have regrets about
- 40 Watch an oaf be oblivious to the obstacle ahead?
- 42 See 24-Across
- 43 "Dreams from My Father" author
- 45 '30s dance or '70s do
- 46 Recess at St. Francis Church
- 47 Specs unit
- 49 Give a whoop!
- 51 Cast
- 54 ____ windmills (attack imaginary enemies)
- 58 Magician's opening
- 60 "That fits you like a glove," for one?
- 62 Bell tower bongs
- 64 Webster or Wyle
- 65 "Bearded" flower
- 66 "Cotton Comes to Harlem" director Davis
- 67 Pound of poetry
- 68 Datum



© Tracy Bennett and Victor Fleming (published via Adobe Acrobat DC)

- 69 "Fiddlesticks!"
- 70 Nutritionist's plan
- 71 " ____ meeny miny ..."

DOWN

- 1 Snipe's habitat
- 2 Blown away
- 3 High-strung and competitive
- 4 Gently sidled past
- 5 It precedes and follows "née"
- 6 Iconic lab assistant
- 7 Fruit in a rind
- 8 Disorient
- 9 Return destination, briefly
- 10 Token
- 11 Stage direction for a Charlie Chaplin routine?
- 12 Carpet thickness
- 13 Abound (with)
- 21 Kicker
- 22 Kicker
- 26 Word with fried or six
- 28 Yoga rollups
- 30 Some Shoshonean speakers
- 31 Secretary of Transportation Buttigieg
- 32 J.Lo's ex-beau
- 33 Shape of a spinnable sculpture near the Michigan Union
- 34 What gets tossed in the locker room after a Miami pro basketb game?
- 36 To the ____ degree
- 37 Roentgen's discovery
- 40 Hiding place
- 41 Understanding words
- 44 Gospel singer Jackson portraye by Danielle Brooks in a 2021 Lifetime film
- 46 Court order?
- 48 Biblical figure with a salty wife
- 50 Turned on, in a way
- 52 Shared a cab, perhaps?
- 53 Chimamanda ____ Adichie, auth of "Purple Hibiscus" and "We Should All Be Feminists"
- 55 It's literally a piece of cake
- 56 Bee-related
- 57 On edge and likely to snap
- 58 Each
- 59 Woman in a Gershwin title
- 61 Loser of a fabled race
- 63 Put in stitches, say

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Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



MAY 2021 EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem has cancelled all in-person activities due to COVID-19.

Here are ways you can experience our 10 am worship service on Sundays:

Most Simple - Tune in to our live radio broadcast on WAAM 1600AM.

You can also listen to WAAM on Tune In by following this link

: <http://www.mainstreamnetwork.com/listen/player.asp?station=waam-am&listen=Listen+Live>.

(Click the shiny "play" button on the lower left of the page, ignoring any advertisements.)

Facebook

Beginning at 9:55 Sunday, you will find our Live Video at Bethlehem's Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2>

Following the 10 am service on Sunday, the video will be posted to the Bethlehem UCC website: www.bethlehem-ucc.org. We have begun posting the service to [Bethlehem's YouTube page](#), it will be available there at 10 am on Sundays.

Thank you all. We look forward to worshiping together.



Sunday Worship Times
10:00 am Sanctuary
streamed on Facebook

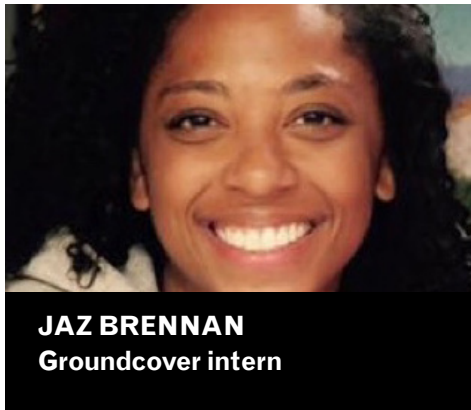
The pandemic's hidden toll on women and their work lives

On March 24, 2021 United States Representative for Michigan, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, went live on Facebook to talk about how women have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Congresswoman Dingell held a discussion with labor leaders Cindy Estrada of the UAW International Union and Jeannette Bradshaw of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to expose the adverse realities women are facing.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, during the COVID-19 pandemic almost five million of women's jobs were lost, with only a couple million recovered. According to Estrada, 42% of women are the sole breadwinners in their household; 62% when specifically looking at women of color. Women in the workplace are often relegated to low-paying, non-union jobs which decreases access to benefits, leadership positions and positions with vertical ascension. A loss this high disrupts the basis of our society as women are forced to go without income, benefits or support to keep themselves and their families out of poverty.

Women who have managed to stay employed often do so to their own detriment. Income standards have consistently been unequal, and the pandemic has only led to an increased deficit. To this day, on average, women make less than men in the same position. In 2020, women made approximately \$0.80 to every dollar of a man. This number drops further, to \$0.62, for women of color.

Due to historical and cultural narratives still present in our society, women are often subjugated to caretaking roles in the workplace. Many of the positions that were not eliminated are considered front line and essential. These include waitstaff, healthcare, education and residential care workers. While these positions still existed, the women working them experienced a great risk to their personal and their families' health. While struggling in these low-wage positions and lack of benefits, there were additional barriers in getting proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), hazard pay, and other life-saving assistive measures. Without the ability to take sick leave, or isolate themselves from their families,



women in these workspaces were in the highest category for risk of infection and transmission.

In addition to the caretaking responsibilities in their paid positions, women are often the sole caretakers of their families. Estrada discussed the extra stress women take on when there is no other option but to stay home with children, being forced to choose family life over their professions. Estrada spoke of the high costs of childcare and unfeasible hour constraints as major barriers. Many daycares are not opening early enough or staying open late enough to facilitate the average woman's workday. Estrada reported that some job sites are working with women by providing childcare stipends. However, they are rarely sufficient to offset the financial burden to families.

Dingell added that throughout the pandemic, childcare options were widely unavailable due to the nature of the virus and its mode of transmission. With school closures, women are now having to be teachers in addition to caregivers and breadwinners. Jeannette Bradshaw chimed in that while children were of large concern, women are also faced with caregiving for parents and or elderly family members. The time alone would hinder anyone from being able to work one job, let alone facing the need of working multiple jobs with little government assistance.

The federal economic stimulus packages that have been sent out have been of both significant and little benefit to many women and families. The three packages, sent out in April and December of 2020, and March 2021, were often used to catch up on bills that had long gone unpaid. While necessary in the moment, they are not of long term benefit to the many who are struggling



Image credit: Rayne Zaayman-Gallant, EMBL Heidelberg

to remain above water. Wealth-building ventures such as investing and retirement plans are still not available to most due to their high need of disposable income. This leaves questions as to how this economic downturn will continue to affect women and families throughout the next several generations.

With the amount of pressure women are experiencing alongside the more widespread realities of the pandemic including isolation, constant changes in public policy, and deplorable acts of violence throughout the community, mental health is as much a concern as anything. Rates of anxiety and depression throughout our society have increased as has the demand for mental health care. This, however, is another strain on the already heightened economic burden on women and families. Women are left caring for the mental health needs of their children, while experiencing high needs of their own. The lack of benefits often mean

that women are left to their own devices in balancing their emotional and mental states.

According to the National Health Institute, there's emerging evidence that alcohol and drug consumption are on the rise throughout the nation. This can lead to devastating effects in family units in our current day as well as cause major ripples in the future generations of children growing up in these environments.

According to Dingell, The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed several sore spots of our societies. Dingell said that this long standing issue of women's rights has become a crisis and if we do not begin to develop solutions to this issue, the significant loss of women in the workplace as well as the additional strain that women have been made to bear will continue to affect our families and our communities well into the future.

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Michigan Movement hosts webinar on homelessness and mental health impacts

LIZZY LAWRENCE
Groundcover contributor

At least 40 people tuned in to Michigan Movement's "Homelessness and Mental Health Impacts" webinar Monday April 5, ready to listen to advocates discuss the intersections of health and housing insecurity.

Michigan Movement, a University of Michigan student organization committed to aiding the homeless community, brought together experts in community mental health, poverty and homelessness. Michigan Movement president and Groundcover News publisher Lindsay Calka moderated the livestream. The event ultimately focused on the ways we can increase access to housing and care both locally and broadly.

The panelists noted the many barriers facing people searching for housing — especially those with mental health issues and/or experiencing homelessness. One of the panelists, Katie Hoener, is an administrator at Washtenaw County Community Mental Health, but began as a direct care staffer for individuals with autism. Hoener said application fees for apartment rentals are just one example of impediments to secure long-term housing.

"Forty-five dollars can be very cost-prohibitive if you're on a fixed income," Hoener said. "It can be very symptom-triggering and cause additional frustrations. We have a lot of barriers to even get applications in."

Jennifer Erb-Downward is a researcher with the University of Michigan's Poverty Solutions initiative. Previously, she researched child homelessness in New York after stints as a traveling musician and a data analyst for a fashion company.

Erb-Downward brought up the traumatic impact losing a home can have on one's mental health. She cited research from TRAILS, a University initiative aiming to bring effective mental health care to schools, which revealed that children who experienced unstable housing had much higher rates of anxiety and depression.

"When we think about this intersection with mental health and housing, it's important to think about it from all angles," Erb-Downward said. "Both how challenging it can be to get housing when you have a mental health diagnosis, but also how much having housing or not having housing impacts your mental health."

Laura Urteaga-Fuentes is a program manager at Detroit at Work, an organization working to connect homeless people with jobs. She said it's important to understand that unsheltered people have a hierarchy of needs.

"They need food first," Urteaga-Fuentes said. "They want to secure where they're going to be for the night. Their mental health and their health care takes a backseat."

Urteaga-Fuentes brought up a 2019 California Policy Lab study that found that homeless populations are most likely to receive health care through emergency services. It's difficult, Urteaga-Fuentes stated, to access long-term care if you don't have shelter or a reliable means of communication.

All of the panelists said they supported the housing-first approach, which prioritizes offering permanent housing to homeless people. Hoener emphasized that this approach still requires other services.

"It's not the model of housing here and then we walk away," Hoener said. "It requires a lot of surrounding

On April 5, Jennifer Erb-Downward, Katie Hoener, Pam Kisch and Laura Urteaga-Fuentes sat on a panel moderated by Lindsay Calka on homelessness and mental health impacts. The webinar was streamed live on YouTube.

intervention in order to allow that housing to be successful."

Urteaga-Fuentes said it's essential for mental health services and homelessness advocacy organizations to communicate and co-locate with each other. Several panelists echoed her point, with Erb-Downward noting that the same idea is critical for school systems.

"How do we incorporate mental health into the fabric of our education system so we can identify kids when they are struggling?" Erb-Downward asked.

Lorant Peeler, a program specialist with the Spectrum Center, asked how the panelists' organizations will continue to advocate for the policies and rights protections that homeless people need.

Hoener said she's advocating for more federal funding for people on the

verge of homelessness so that Washtenaw County is more able to prevent people from becoming homeless.

Erb-Downward said we should fight for affordable housing provisions from the federal government, as well as other long-term, sustainable ways of addressing poverty.

To wrap up the event, Calka asked for parting advice for students interested in entering the homelessness and mental health advocacy field.

"Often those of us that advocate for other people are terrible at advocating for ourselves and what we need in the workplace," Pam Kisch, Director of the Fair Housing Center said. "We need to advocate for ourselves."

A recording of the webinar can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVeLF49plcg>

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28	H	E	A	D	30	O	N	32	N	E	E	D
33	B	E	A	35	M	37	G	E	A	R	U	P
38	A	C	H	40	Y	42	M	A	44	N	X	E
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58	T	H	R	60	O	62	W	64	T	I	L	T
65	A	B	R	67	A	69	T	I	G	H	T	R
70	P	E	A	72	L	S	74	N	O	A	H	I
75	O	S	S	77	I	E	79	Z	R	A	81	S
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89	F	E	N	91	Y							

Cherry-Tarragon Chicken Salad

ELIZABETH BAUMAN
Groundcover contributor

Ingredients:

1 cup fresh orange juice
½ cup dried cherries
4 cups chopped, cooked chicken
1/3 cup mayonnaise
¼ cup sour cream
2 teaspoons fresh tarragon
1 teaspoon grated orange rind
½ teaspoon salt, divided
¼ teaspoon pepper

Directions:

Bring juice and cherries to a boil in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Reduce heat, and simmer for 10-12 minutes until liquid



id reduces to ¼ cup (occasionally stirring). Remove from heat and cool slightly. Pour mixture into a large bowl, stir in chicken and remaining ingredients, tossing to coat. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Serve with crackers.

➡ CLIMATE from page 4

just local issues. They are global issues. In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted to mitigate extreme weather events and minimize deaths and destruction. In 2015, about 195 countries became signatories to the Paris Climate Action Agreement. The United States Government withdrew from the Agreement in 2017. In January 2021, the Biden administration re-joined the Paris Accord.

What disappoints many young activists is that Big Oil companies, such as Royal Dutch Shell and ExxonMobil, knew about the catastrophic effects of climate change in 1968 and tried to hide the information. The big electric, coal and gas utility companies also knew about climate change risks

during this time but chose to, instead, perpetuate a decades-long disinformation campaign to deceive the public.

There is a Planning and Public Policy lesson on preparedness to be learned from the recent COVID-19 global pandemic. Dr. A. Feldt, a former U-M urban planning faculty expert on simulations and games once asked, "How do you plan for the acts of God and nature?" In the 21st century, the question is what are individuals, industries, and governments doing to save our planet? And what are they doing to keep the global temperatures from increasing a catastrophic two or three degrees Celsius? It is imperative that the richest and largest economies act now in order to save our earth from irreversible harm.

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Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil 5 pm & 7 pm (español);

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- June 4** Wear Orange for Gun Violence Prevention
- June 11** Hunger and Poverty Relief
- June 18** Erev Juneteenth Shabbat
- June 25** Pride Shabbat

Services begin at 7:30 PM



Zoom Links available at TempleBethEmeth.org/Calendar

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